

Squamata, Serpentes, Dipsadidae, *Philodryas viridissima* (Linnaeus, 1758): First record in the state of Acre, northern Brazil

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ABSTRACT: The common green racer *Philodryas viridissima* (Linnaeus, 1758) is an arboreal and terrestrial snake species broadly distributed in southern Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Guiana, Suriname, French Guiana, Paraguay up to Argentina, and most of Brazil. In this study, we report the first record of *P. viridissima* in the state of Acre, Brazil, in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve. This record expands the species distribution in 280 km to the southwest of Boca do Acre, state of Amazonas, which was the nearest record of this species in Brazilian Amazon until now.

The genus *Philodryas* Wagler, 1830 comprises 19 recognized species (Zaher *et al.* 2008; 2009), out of which 13 occur in Brazil (Bérnils 2010). Five species are known in the Brazilian Amazon (including Cerrado patches and other open vegetations): *P. argentea* (Daudin, 1803), *P. boulengeri* (Procter, 1923), *P. olfersii* (Lichtenstein, 1823), *P. patagoniensis* (Girard, 1858), and *P. viridissima* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Cunha and Nascimento 1993; Silva-Jr 1993; França *et al.* 2006). Among them, only *P. argentea* and *P. boulengeri* have been recorded in the state of Acre to date (Prudente *et al.* 2008; Avila-Pires *et al.* 2009).

The common green racer *Philodryas viridissima* is an arboreal and terrestrial snake that is broadly distributed in southern Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Guiana, Suriname, French Guiana, Paraguay up to Argentina, most of Brazil (Cunha and Nascimento 1993) and Ecuador (Duellman 1978). In Brazil, it occurs in the states of Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Mato Grosso and Maranhão (Cunha and Nascimento 1993; Silva-Jr. 1993; Martins and Oliveira 1998), as well as in the municipality of Porto Seguro, southern Bahia (Marques 1999).

In this study, we report the first record of *Philodryas viridissima* in the state of Acre. A single specimen was found in Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve, municipality of Brasília, on 25 October 2010 (10°27' S, 69°11' W). The specimen was in resting position in the middle of the road, thermo-regulating at 11:00 h. The specimen was collected (ICMBio/SISBIO collecting license n. 25261-1), euthanized with ether, fixed in 10% formalin, and was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Federal University of Acre - Campus Floresta (Cruzeiro do Sul - AC), under the number UFACF 4004.

This record extends the known distribution of *Philodryas viridissima* in 280 km to the southwest of Boca do Acre, state of Amazonas, which was the nearest record of this species in Brazilian Amazon until now (França and Venâncio 2010). The geographical extension reported here

improves the basic knowledge of *Philodryas viridissima* occurrence, which may be essential for future studies assessing the specie's biology and conservation.

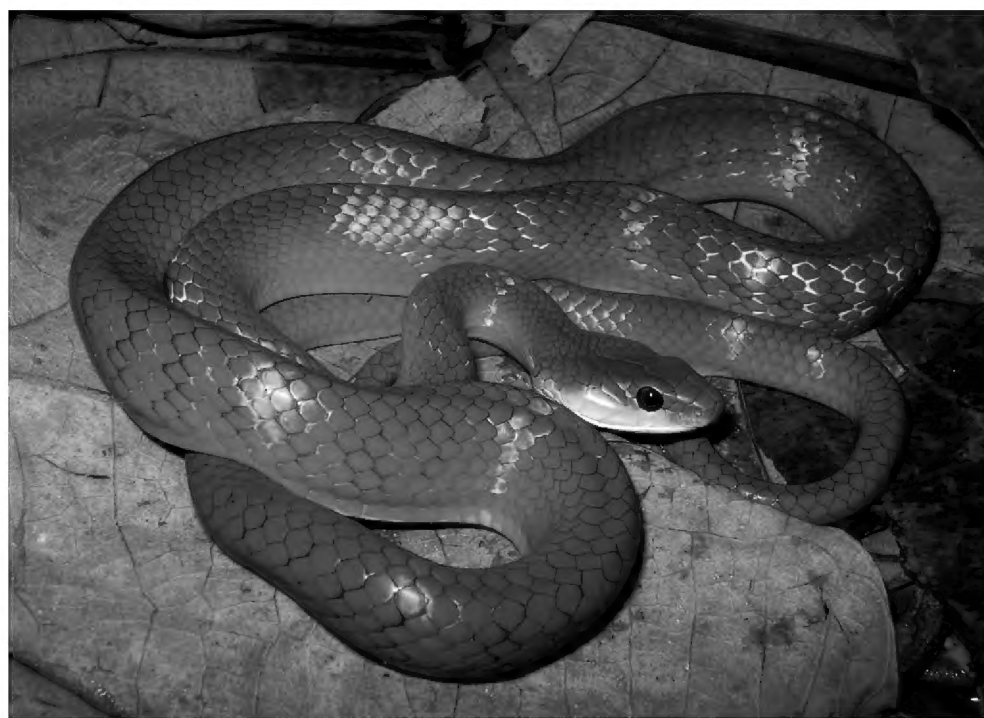


FIGURE 1. *Philodryas viridissima* (UFACF 4004) from Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve, municipality of Brasília, state of Acre, Brazil. Photo by Marco A. Freitas.

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